

Dear Fellow Texans:

Congratulations on your interest in completing the recycling loop!

Texans have enthusiastically contributed to the recycling process by sorting and saving recyclables from the landfill. But there has been less interest in what happens to the material once consumers drop it off at the curbside or the recycling center. The untold part of the recycling story is that there aren't enough businesses buying that recycled material and using it in the making of new products. There aren't enough users of recycled materials to absorb the supply.

Buy Recycled is a statewide push to enhance the economics of recycling by creating markets for recycled material. Simply put, if we Texans buy products made of or packaged in recycled material, demand for that material will increase and inspire manufacturers to continue using recycled materials in their products.

It's consumer demand that drives the recycling process. Together with our retail partners, the Texas General Land Office is hoping this brochure will provide useful information on buying products made of recycled material.

This is a unique time. Together we can create a demand for the recyclable material we collect by buying the products that use the material. I urge you to start looking for recycled products today.

Sincerely

Texas Land Commissioner

If you're not buying, you're not recycling.

Recycling is a three-step process. We must include all segments in order to succeed.

The three steps are:

1. Collect your recyclables instead of throwing them away. Take them to the nearest recycling center or put them out for curbside collection. Processors clean and prepare the recycled material for use by manufacturers.
2. Manufacturers make new products from the collected materials.
3. Consumers purchase recycled-content products and, if suitable, put them back into recycling collection programs.

You can make a difference. Keep the process moving. Let's close the loop!



Look for the arrows...



... they mean the product is either recycled or recyclable.

- Almost all products are recyclable, but not all are actually recycled.
- When you see the arrows, look for further information on the package, telling whether the product is recyclable or made with recycled material.
- Recycled is vastly preferable to recyclable because it means the product is made with material that has been sorted and re-used in the recycling process.

Buy post-consumer recycled material.

Materials thrown away by the public are termed post-consumer materials. Buying recycled products with post-consumer material ensures that collection, transportation and recycling technologies get developed.

Products with the highest percentage of post-consumer waste do the most to keep the recycling process moving. Let's close the loop!

You're not truly recycling until you buy recycled products.

Recycling is an age-old process.

Using recycled material is a natural process in which all living matter participates. Take a forest, for example. When leaves fall to the ground, they begin a decomposition process that will continue the cycle of life. Through exposure to sun, air, moisture and microorganisms, the leaves break down and become nutrients used by other plants to grow and flourish.

We live in the same ecosystem as the forest and benefit from the same natural processes. Recycling is a law, a law of nature. Don't break that law! Sort and save your recyclables but, more importantly, *don't let a good thing go to waste: Buy Recycled!*

Buying Recycled saves resources.

Buying products made of recycled materials has many benefits. For example:

- One soft drink packaged in a recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to run your TV set for 3 hours.
- Newspapers printed on recycled paper prevent the cutting of more than 25 million trees a year.
- Re-refining used motor oil saves two-thirds the energy required to refine from crude oil, and re-refined oil lubricates just as well.
- Many of the glass bottles used for packaging have been recycled, using 25% less energy than new glass manufacturing.
- Plastics can be reused to make everything from flower pots to lumber.

Shopping Guidelines

Use this guide to buy products made with recycled materials.

1. Check labels for recycling symbol to indicate if recycled or recyclable.
2. Check paperboard cartons to see if they are grey on the inside. These usually have high post-consumer content.
3. Glass recycling is usually closed-loop. The glass packaging industry claims to average 30% post-consumer recycled content nationwide.
4. Aluminum is continually recyclable, and, according to the aluminum industry, cans average more than 40% post-consumer content.
5. Ask the store manager to stock and label products with recycled content.
5. If a product you buy doesn't have recycled content, call or write the manufacturer and ask them to provide it.

For more information, please call
1-800-367-8272



Texas General Land Office • Garry Mauro Commissioner
October 1993 ♻️ Recycled and recyclable paper

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To request an accessible format, call 512-463-2613 or contact us through RELAY Texas at 1-800-735-2989, or mail your request to 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1495

Here are just a few Recycled Products...

Paper Products (Household)

Facial tissue
Greeting cards
Napkins
Newsprint
Paper towels
Photo albums
Toilet tissue
Tissue paper
Wrapping paper



Home Improvement Material

Plastic lumber and pipe
Carpet
Glass
Insulation
Paint
Tile
Wall board
Wallpaper



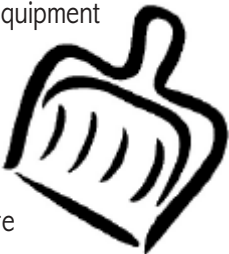
Paper Products (Office)

Adding machine rolls
Cardboard storage boxes
Computer paper
Copy paper
Envelopes
Expanding files
Hanging folders
Manila folders
Notebooks
Notepads
Post-It notes
Stationery, envelopes
Typing Paper



Plastic (Home Accessories)

Playground equipment
Bird feeders
Bird houses
Door mats
Dust pans
Flower pots
Lawn furniture
Picnic tables
Recycling bins
Waste baskets



Food Packaging/Containers

Soft drink bottles
Bowls
Cereal boxes
Glass jars
Glass bottles
Mugs
Plates
Trays



Office/School Supplies

Binders (three ring and proposal)
Bulletin boards
Clipboards
Desk accessories (Pencil cup, note tray, letter opener, etc.)
Desk organizer
Erasable boards
Packaging foam
Pens, pencils
Rulers
Scissors
Laser toner cartridges
Printed business forms



Gardening

Compost
Compost bins
Hydroseeding mulch
Landscaping timber
Outdoor mats
Potting soil
Soil amendments
Trash bags
Trash cans



Recreational

Board games
Exercise mats
Wheel chocks
Boat dock bumpers
Playground equipment
Sleeping bag insulation
Coloring and activity books
Toys (Frisbees, Yo-Yo's, etc.)



Automotive

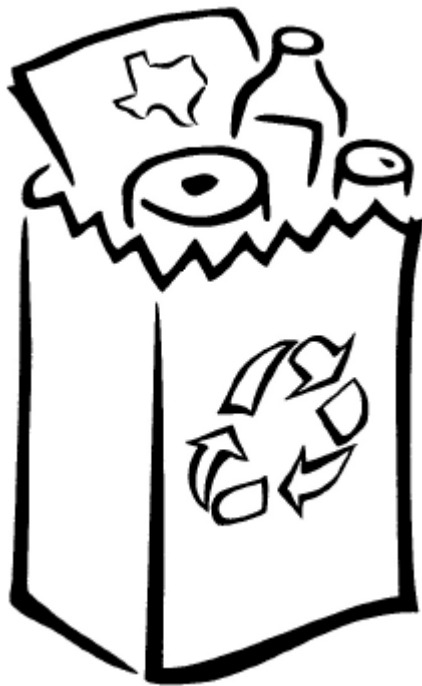
Batteries (Lead interior & plastic exterior)
Ice scrapers
License plate frames
Motor oil
Mud flaps
Retreat tires
squeezees



Craft Items

Art pads
Buttons
Floral containers
Wreaths

Don't let
a good thing
go to waste...



BuyRecycled



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